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U.N. MOVES INTO DEAD CITY

Growing Communist Resistance As Forces Press North

COMMENT

Unless a last-minute radical change occurs in the Soviet approach to devising an objective agenda capable of encouraging belief in the value of bringing together the Big Four Foreign Ministers and promising a sincere attempt to break down the causes of international tension, the Paris preliminaries, now in their tenth day, may just as well be abandoned. No doubt the Conference contemplated could transform the whole world situation if it really eliminated the chief factors in the atmosphere of distrust and produced anything resembling genuine agreement.

Even now, there could develop a glimmer of optimism, if Moscow were to recognise that, for the first time since their blundering disarmament immediately after the war and the slow tempo of European rearmament, the Western Powers are nevertheless able to lead this time from greater strength than in the past. But the preliminary skirmishes have caused increasing scepticism.

This attitude derives not only from past experience with the Soviet but even more from the propaganda blasts emanating from Moscow recently. It is hardly surprising that Gromyko's "conciliatory concessions," find themselves placed in much the same category.

Soviet policy, revealed by these tactics, indicate that far from abandoning the aggressive intentions which have alarmed the world, the Kremlin is still pursuing the Stalinist aim of trying to subjugate the free world. The effort is being pressed under the transparent camouflage of a phoney peace campaign.

It is for that reason that Moscow concentrates its fire on attempts to prevent a West German contribution to Western defence and to open the floodgates to Communist penetration and control. Willingness of Western statesmanship to let bygones be bygones and work side by side for permanent peace is beyond dispute. Russia's co-operation is up to the Kremlin.

Spearheads Drive To Within 15 Miles Of Parallel

Seoul, Mar. 15.
American troops moved into the heart of this dead city today, while South Korean soldiers occupied high ground around the recaptured capital.

The Americans kept a sharp vigil in the city's outskirts but sighted no Red activity. South Korean officers declared that the capital was "secured" at 11.30 a.m.

LABOUR BID TO BAN REVIVERS

London, Mar. 15.
Over 100 Labour Members of Parliament tonight tried to dry up Opposition attempts to talk them out of office at all-night sittings.

They put down a motion seeking to stop the sale of liquor in the House of Commons after 10 o'clock.

This Labour attempt to thwart the efforts of Mr Winston Churchill and his followers to force a general election through tactics that throw Parliament into almost daily—and nightly—uproar followed last night's private meeting of Labour members.

The motion's sponsors are asking for a debate on it next week.

The Conservatives seek to topple the seven-majority Government at the earliest moment. They are confident that they would win a general election in the near future.

Socialists say that the Prime Minister, Mr Clement Attlee, and his colleagues wish to maintain office at least until Autumn by which time Labour's prestige may have recovered from some of the blows which have been dealt to it by the meat and coal shortages and other drastic changes.—Reuter.

Hour Of Varsity Congregation Set Back

Mr Malcolm MacDonald, due in Hongkong from England today to attend the Hongkong University's Annual Congregation, is expected to be slightly delayed by bad weather.

At Kai Tak this morning, it was reported that the weather was lifting slowly and there was unlikely to be any undue delay.

The gathering of the Congregation has, however, been postponed from 3.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. this afternoon to ensure the attendance of the Commissioner-General for South-East Asia.

Back To Seoul

Tokyo, Mar. 15.
The South Korean Government today announced its intention of transferring Government departments back to recaptured Seoul.—Reuter.

There was no resistance in Seoul, but the United Nations troops were warned that some North Korean soldiers had changed to civilian attire.

Republican troops questioned a few men of military age they found and some were taken prisoners.

Officers estimated that the damage in Seoul was 15 per cent greater than when the Allies took the city the first time in last September. The allied troops found it a dead city.

United Nations troops met growing Communist resistance today as they lunged toward the 38th Parallel in Central Korea.

But on the western flank, American spearheads drove to within 15 miles of the border, by-passing the former South Korean capital of Seoul, recaptured yesterday.

GOING NORTH

This drive took them to within 10 miles of the Communists' main supply base on the central front, Chunchon.

About 15 miles to the south-east, United Nations troops entered Hongchon, the Communists' former supply base, about 21 miles south of the Parallel.

North of Hongchon, United Nations patrols ran into increasing Communist opposition and called for air and artillery strikes to soften up the Communist defenders.

Elements of the American First Cavalry Division swept across the Hongchon River west of the town, and cut the road linking it to Chunchon.

These two towns had been regarded as keys of the Communists' strategy in South Korea.

Further to the east, American Second Division infantrymen struck stiff resistance near Yudong, about 26 miles south of the border.

AREA DESERTED

But on the western flank of the United Nations advance, South Korean troops screening Seoul met no resistance.

They found the area around the battered capital deserted, but more than 6,000 Communists were reported to be digging defence emplacements nine miles to the north-west.

The American 25th Division continued to expand its bridgehead across the Han River east of Seoul, capturing a village nine miles north of the junction of the Han and Pukhan Rivers.

A spokesman for the Tenth Corps, on the eastern flank of the central front, said that despite the Communists increasing

H.K. University Gets New Grant

London, Mar. 15.
Britain has made a second award of £250,000 to Hong Kong University to help in rehabilitation and development, the Colonial Office announced today.—Reuter.

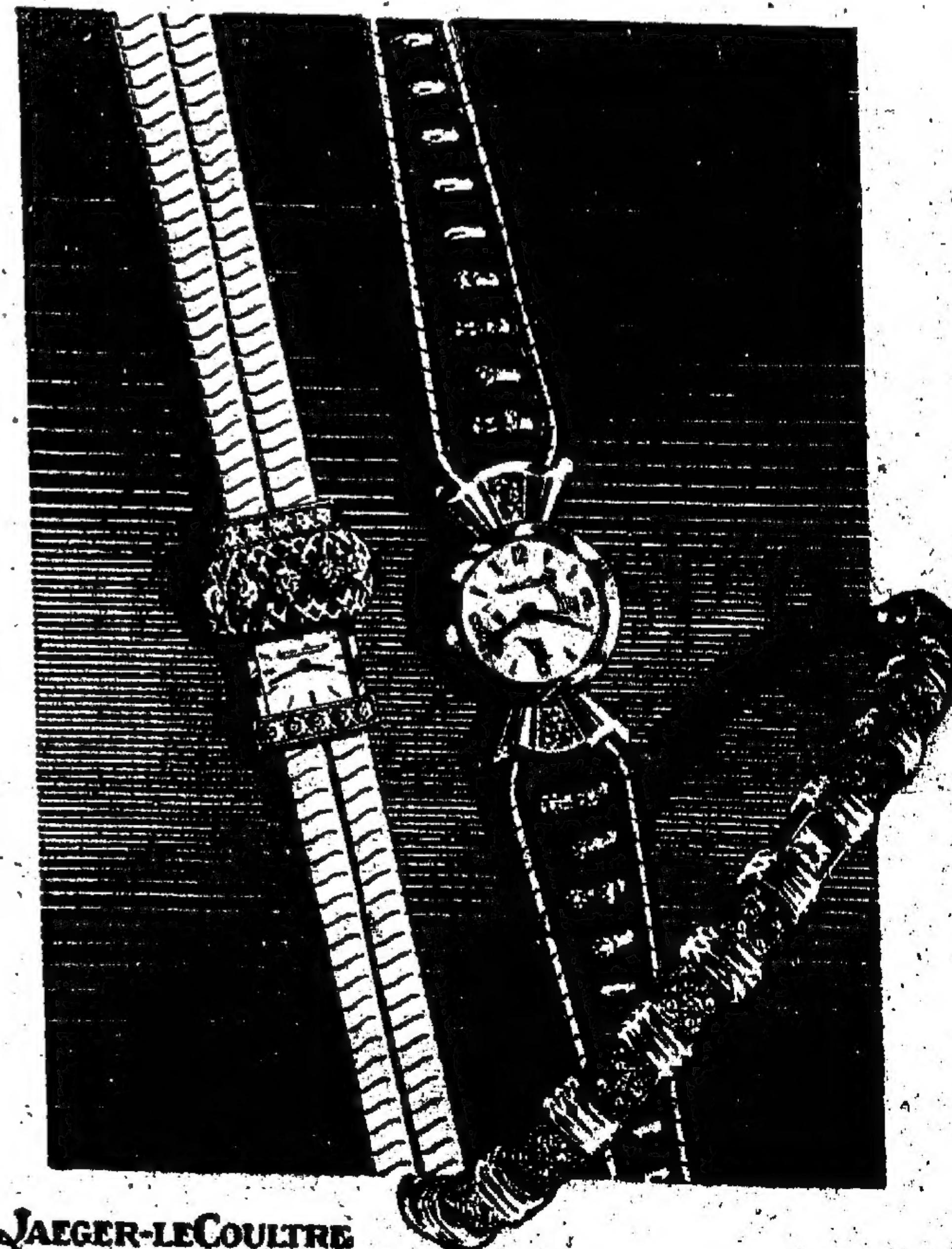
Hongkong Black Carbon Hold-Up

Manila, Mar. 16.
The Philippine Government has turned down a request to use Manila as port for transshipment of 225 cases of Hongkong-bound black carbon from Japan. The request was made by a local shipping company following unloading of a 35,000-pound shipment at Yokkaichi, Japan, from a ship, which had come from the United States.

Rejecting the request, the government stated it did not wish to make Manila a "springboard for transshipment of restricted materials to Far East danger areas."

Black carbon is understood to contain an important ingredient for the manufacture of gunpowder and the government decision was believed to have been made in an effort to prevent the shipment from falling into Chinese Communist hands.—United Press.

Little Things That Please

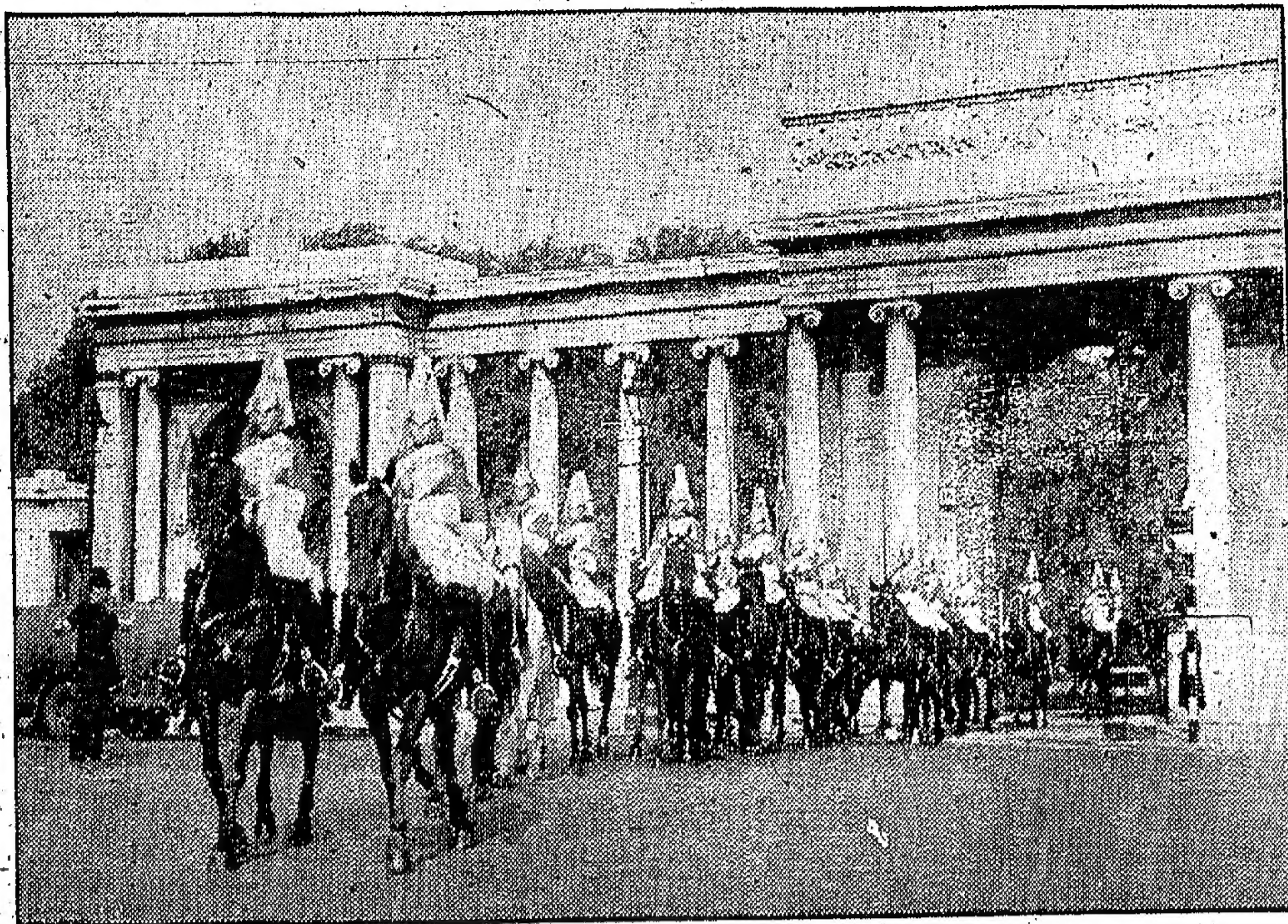


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DAZZLING LONDON CAVALCADE



One of the never-failing attractions of London is the Changing of the Guard in Whitehall. In this picture is seen a dazzling cavalcade of the King's Life Guard proceeding from its barracks to take part in that brilliant and colourful spectacle which never fails to draw a crowd.

Battle Over Freedom Of Press

Buenos Aires, Mar. 15. President Peron tonight called his Federal Congress into special session tomorrow to discuss the dispute over the independent newspaper La Prensa.

This was done at the request of a group of Senators and Deputies who held a joint meeting earlier today.

The decree calling the session referred to the "intense campaign which claims to be based on freedom of the press but which is aimed at injuring Argentina's international prestige and indestructible union of her people with their Government."

"In this way, the nation is face to face with another episode in international capitalist mobilisation, which is working subversively, and, characterised by the use of so-called independent newspapers, of international news agencies and congresses of publishers, works with anti-Argentine motives."

The block of Argentine Senators and deputies which decided today to ask President Peron to call a special session also passed unanimously a declaration supporting President Peron for a second six-year term of office. The Presidential elections are due early in 1952. —Reuter.

New Round Of Talks On Parallel Likely To Be Touched Off

Washington, March 15.

The appeal by General Douglas MacArthur for "fundamental decisions" on the Korean war is expected to touch off a new round of urgent talks among the United Nations allies on whether to cross the 38th Parallel in force.

The State Department declined formal comment on General MacArthur's statement, but several members of Congress hailed his outline of the situation confronting the United Nations forces as a "sound estimate" and fresh evidence that "his hands should be untied."

Senator William Knowland (Republican) said General MacArthur showed he was facing "realities as they exist in that part of the world."

For this reason, it would be a grave mistake to prevent General MacArthur from crossing the Parallel. Senator Knowland read General MacArthur's cable to the Congressional Record.

The Senator said the administration should now inform the nation as to the conditions under which it would seek a negotiated peace in Korea. He said that unless General MacArthur was supported to the hilt in Korea, the North Koreans

might regroup, obtain new equipment from China and Russia, and then launch fresh aggression. —United Press.

IN CONSULTATION

Washington, Mar. 15. Officials here today said that the British and American Governments were in continuous consultation on the strategy to be followed by the United Nations if the United Nations forces reach the 38th Parallel in Korea.

They said talks on this subject had started in Washington at the end of February, before the British Ambassador, Sir Oliver Franks, left for London.

Several meetings had been held, but none had been held this week apart from the usual routine contact between officials of the State Department and the British Embassy.

No special talks had been initiated within the past few days.

Mr Michael McDermott, the State Department spokesman, said yesterday that no decisions had yet been made on whether United Nations troops should cross the Parallel in force.

Officials declined to elaborate further on the talks on the grounds that this would be giving the Chinese Communists information of military value. —Reuter.

Up To MacArthur

Key West, Florida, Mar. 15. President Truman told a press conference today that the decision whether United Nations troops should cross the 38th Parallel in Korea was a tactical one for the commander in the field and not for the Commander-in-Chief, 7,000 miles away. —Reuter.

MACARTHUR SAYS MANOEUVRE WAR MUST CONTINUE

38th Parallel Problem Looming Close

New York, March 15.

General Douglas MacArthur said today that United Nations troops must continue their war of manoeuvre in Korea because there are no natural defences near the 38th Parallel to hold against the Chinese Communists.

The number of United Nations troops it would take to hold the Parallel would be sufficient to drive the Chinese Communists back across the Yalu river boundary with Manchuria and to hold the line there.

The Supreme Commander said this in response to a single question asked him by cable: "How many troops would be required to hold the 38th Parallel inviolate?"

General MacArthur replied: "As I have on several occasions pointed out, the conditions under which we are conducting military operations in Korea do not favour engaging in positional warfare on any line across the peninsula."

"Specifically with reference to the 38th Parallel, there are no natural defence features anywhere near its immediate proximity. The terrain is such that if we had it, and could logistically maintain it, we would be able to drive the Chinese Communists back across the Yalu, hold that river as our future main line of defence, and proceed to the accomplishment of our mission in the unification of Korea."

BEST SERVED

"Under the realities existing, however, we can and will, (unless the situation is radically altered, continue our campaign of manoeuvre as the best means to neutralise the military disadvantage under which we fight, and keep the enemy engaged where it best serves our own military purposes."

"Such point of engagement will of necessity be a fluctuating variable, dependent upon the shifting relative strengths of the forces committed, and will constantly move up or down."

"The problem involved requires much more fundamental decisions than are within my authority or responsibility to make as military commander. Decisions which must not ignore the heavy costs in Allied blood which a protracted and indecisive campaign would entail." —United Press.

ISSUE TO ARISE

The 38th parallel question is certain to come up tomorrow when the Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. Dean Rusk, has his weekly meeting with envoys of the United Nations countries that have forces in Korea.

Final decisions will have to be thrashed out in the United Nations itself, at least informally.

President Truman was asked about the problem a few weeks ago. He replied that Gen. MacArthur had ample authority to handle the whole military situation in Korea. The United Nations resolution placed no formal barriers to crossing the line.

The issue depends in part on Communist tactics — whether the Reds give battle at the parallel or show signs of seeking a truce based on that line.

Assurances given to Britain and other Allies include a promise that United Nations forces will not cross the parallel in force for any considerable distance without the agreement of all countries. But this would not apply to relatively small penetrations.

Senator Herman Walker (Republican) said there today has been "too much politics" hampering General MacArthur's operations in Korea. It is time to "stop being foolish. Let's

either permit General MacArthur to fight this war as he sees fit or let's pick up our men and come home. It is utterly foolish to be running back and forth across Korea; it is our boys being handicapped by not having permission to bomb Communist bases across the Yalu River."

Senator Harry Cain, Republican member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said General MacArthur has done a "magnificent job with the limited forces at his command." —United Press.

Eisenhower's Mission

Washington, Mar. 15.

General Dwight Eisenhower, often mentioned as a presidential possibility in 1952, has informed Congress he is willing to "devote the rest" of his life to making the Atlantic defence pact work.

He made the statement before a closed session of the joint Foreign Relations and Armed Services Committees. An edited version of his testimony published today disclosed that he said: "I have confidence we still can achieve unity in the free world that will make us secure if we will all work. I have this much confidence that I am willing to devote the rest of my life to try to make it (the Atlantic Pact) work." —United Press.

BRITAIN STILL HOPEFUL

London, Mar. 15.

The British agree with the view expressed by General Douglas MacArthur that practical considerations forbid trying to hold a defensive line at the 38th Parallel.

However, Gen. MacArthur's latest statement on the situation would not change the British viewpoint that the United Nations Army should not cross the 38th Parallel in force at this time.

Officials here still hope for negotiations with the Chinese Reds, and are opposed to doing anything that would jeopardize the chances. —United Press.

Japanese To Be Repatriated

Manila, Mar. 15.

Lieutenant-Colonel Hideichi Matsuzaki, the Japanese military police chief during the occupation, and 13 other Japanese are to be repatriated to Japan on March 21.

Alfredo Bunye, Superintendent of the Muntinlupa prison, said the 14 Japanese were preparing to return to their homeland. The Japanese had completed their terms, been acquitted, or had not been charged. —United Press.

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PERSIAN OIL BATTLE BEGINS

Britain Promises Vigorous Measures To Protect Interests

Majlis Confirms Decision For Nationalisation

London, Mar. 15.

Britain will take vigorous measures to protect her oil interests in Persia following the Persian Majlis' (Parliament) decision today to confirm the nationalisation recommendation made by its Oil Committee, according to diplomatic quarters here.

Anglo-Italian Talks

IDENTITY OF VIEWS AFFIRMED

London, Mar. 15.

Britain reaffirmed today, at the close of the Anglo-Italian talks here, that she still favoured the return of Trieste to Italy.

An official communique on the two-day talks here with the Italian Prime Minister, Signor Alcide de Gasperi, and the Foreign Minister, Count Carlo Sforza, said the two governments reached "complete identity of views" on matters of common interest.

The return of Trieste to Italy was the only topic mentioned specifically. The key paragraph said: "The British Ministers confirmed that they maintain the tripartite declaration on Trieste of March 20, 1948, with a view to settlement by conciliation and the Italian Ministers declared it was their desire to reach a friendly agreement with the Yugoslav Government on this question."

Other points made by Signor de Gasperi and Count Sforza at a press conference included:

1. Special attention was given to the progress of the "Big Four" deputies' conference.
2. Italy's complaint that she had not been admitted to the United Nations.
3. Italy would be "happy" to discuss Trieste with Yugoslavia but no plans have been made for such talks.
4. The precarious situation in Iran is a danger to the Mediterranean and therefore to Italy.—United Press.

DISPUTE OVER LIBYA

Cairo, Mar. 15.

The Arab League's Political Committee had decided to send a note to the United Nations charging that three governments were being set up in Libya in contradiction of the United Nations resolution providing for the establishment of a unified independent state.

The note would stipulate that the Federal system in Libya practically would establish three separate governments—Cyrenaica, Tripolitania and the Fezzan.

Meanwhile, the League received reports that rioting had broken out in Tripoli, where demonstrators for a unified government stoned police and smashed windows before being dispersed.—United Press.

New RAF Base In Cyrenaica

London, Mar. 15.

The Civil Aviation Ministry said today that the airfield at El Adem in Cyrenaica would become a strictly military field effective April 1. It said civil planes would use Benin when the Royal Air Force takes control of the field at El Adem.—United Press.

The present concession of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company—regarded here as remaining entirely valid in law—runs until 1993.

Britain's intention to stand by the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, in which the British Government has a substantial interest, is understood to have been conveyed to the Persian authorities in a note delivered yesterday by the British Ambassador in Teheran, Sir Francis Shepherd.

A Foreign Office spokesman, questioned about the Majlis' decision, said that he could only repeat yesterday's statement by the Minister of State, Mr Kenneth Younger, that the terms of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company's concession made clear that no Persian Government could "unilaterally abrogate the text" until it ran out in 1993.

Observers here believed that the next move by the Persian Government, if it sticks to the plan outlined by the Majlis, will be to table a law nationalising the oil company.

This it would get passed when the Oil Committee has reported with a detailed nationalisation scheme in about three months' time.

British officials here believed that the Majlis' decision was in order from the purely constitutional standpoint, though it was taken before the new Government of the Prime Minister, Hussain Ala, had taken office.

But they considered it a breach of binding undertakings to the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company.

NEXT MOVE?

The British Government's next move, it is understood, will be carefully studied in consultation with the oil company.

Anglo-Iranian shares on the Stock Exchange here, which have fallen by a total of £22 million—about £1 a share—in the last eight days were only slightly affected by today's news from Teheran.

At the opening of the market they were called slightly lower. After some uncertainty they settled down at 105 shillings—about the same level they reached after the assassination of the Persian Prime Minister last week.

The British Government appoints two of the 13 Directors but does not interfere with the normal commercial management.

Mr Kenneth Younger, the Minister of State, disclosed in the House of Commons last night that the company was willing to discuss an agreement on the basis of equal sharing of profits in Persia and had so informed the Persian Government before the recent developments.

This would resemble the arrangement which the American oil concessionaries in Arabia, the Arabian-American Oil Company, recently made with the Government of Saudi Arabia.

Similar equal sharing between the Government and the oil companies prevails in Venezuela.—Reuter.

MAJLIS VOTE

Teheran, Mar. 15.

The Persian Majlis (Parliament) today unanimously confirmed the decision of the Special Oil Committee to nationalise the country's oil industry.

Most of Persia's oil resources are operated by the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company.

The Oil Committee took its decision on the nationalisation last Thursday—the day after the assassination of the Prime Minister, General Ali Razmara, who had opposed nationalisation.

Parliament also extended for two months the life of the Oil Committee, which recently rejected the supplementary agreement signed between the Persian Government and the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company in 1949.

The company's present agreement with the Persian Government is until 1993. The Oil Committee, which was due to finish its business on March 11, asked the Majlis last week to extend its life for two more months to work out a detailed nationalisation plan.

The British Ambassador in Teheran, Sir Francis Shepherd, last night presented the new Prime Minister, Hussain Ala, with the Government's note on British oil interests in Persia mentioned in both Houses of Parliament in London yesterday.

The Anglo-Iranian Oil Company and the Persian Government signed a supplementary oil agreement in 1949 increasing Persia's royalties on each metric ton, giving her a small increase in taxes and a guaranteed minimum annual payment of £4,000,000 in respect of her share dividends and reserves.—Reuter.

NO VETO POWER

London, Mar. 15.

Iranian Embassy sources said today that the oil nationalisation proposal would also have to be approved by the Senate but even if the Senate rejected the bill it would become law if the Majlis approved it again.

After final Parliamentary action, the London sources said, the bill would go to the Shah for routine Royal assent. The Shah, it was said, had no veto powers as such. In the oil case his only recourse, if he opposed nationalisation enough to go against the Majlis, would be to dissolve the present Parliament before final action on the bill.

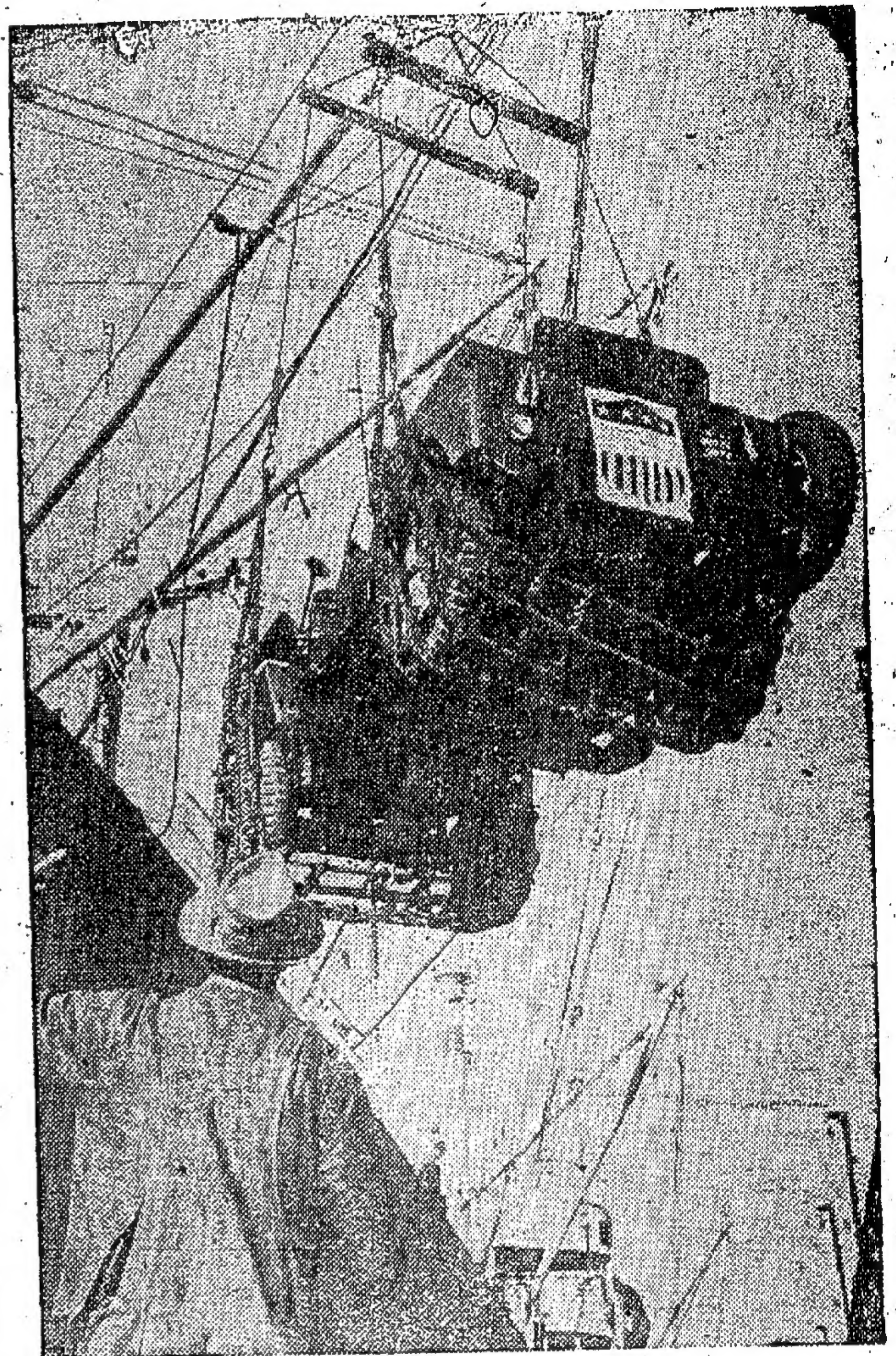
Reports received in London said the Shah had expressed the hope that Iran would get greater royalties from the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company but had not expressed himself on the nationalisation issue.—United Press.

American Jews Help Israel

New York, Mar. 15.

Funds provided by American Jews through the United Palestine Appeal have paid for the establishment of 265 agricultural settlements in Israel since the State was founded, Mr Rudolf Sonneborn, the UPA National Chairman, said today.

The Appeal also aided in the rehabilitation of more than 525,000 immigrants.—Reuter.



A jeep destined for a Marshall Plan country in Southeast Asia being hoisted aboard ship in Baltimore. A new slogan, "Strength for the Free World—from the United States of America," is on the shield of the vehicle, which will be used for health projects.

Syria Crisis No Seek New Deal Nearer Solution

Damascus, Mar. 15.

The failure of Akram Hourani, leader of the Republican bloc, to form a new government today left the week-old Syrian Cabinet crisis no nearer solution.

Informed sources believed that the People's Party, the strongest in Parliament, would be charged with setting up a coalition government to replace that of Premier Nazem el Koubssi, who resigned on March 9. Parliament cannot be dissolved before June under the constitution.—United Press.

A former Syrian Premier, Khaled Azim, has been asked to form a new Cabinet. Azim, an Independent, is expected to form his Cabinet within 24 hours.—Reuter.

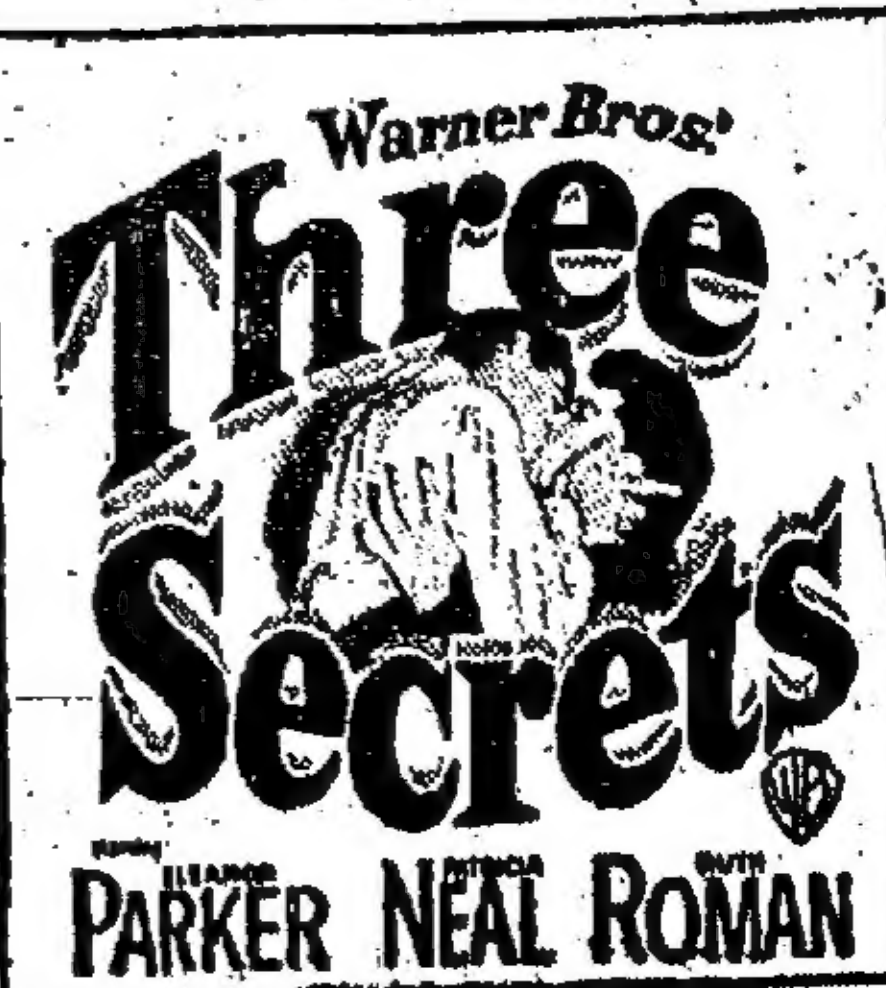
BARCELONA QUIETER

Madrid, Mar. 15.

Conditions in Barcelona appeared almost normal today. The workers in Manresa and other provincial towns, who did not return to work yesterday, were back this morning.—Reuter.

Queen's

SHOWING TO-DAY AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 P.M.

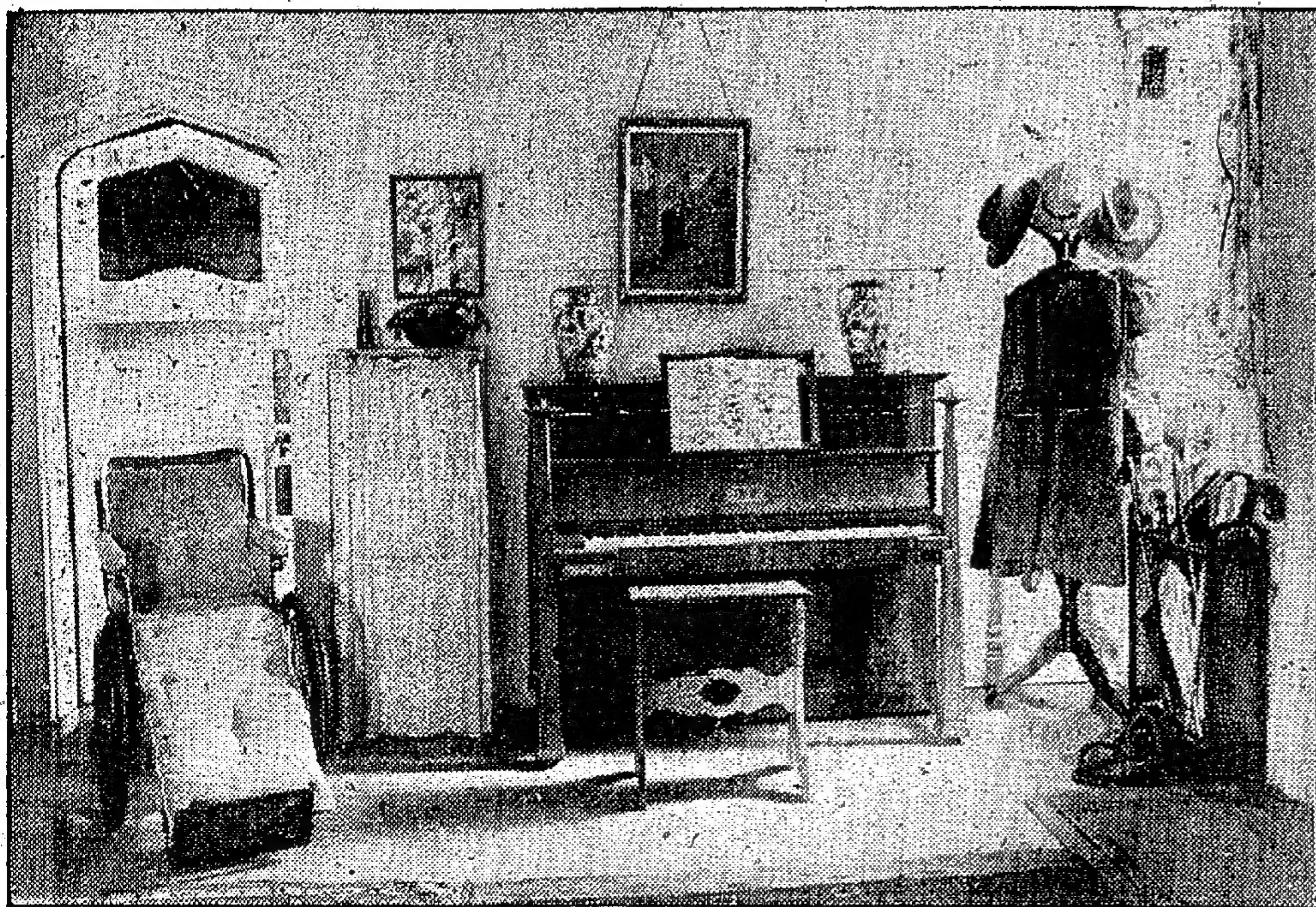


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TREASURES IN SHAW'S HOUSE



Shaw's Corner, the famous house and grounds at Ayot St Lawrence, in Hertfordshire, where George Bernard Shaw lived and died, is to be opened to the public under the auspices of the National Trust. This picture shows the entrance hall, with GBS's hats and cloaks on stand, his piano and wheel chair.—(Central Press).

U.S. Strategists Want Greece And Turkey In NATO

Washington, Mar. 15.

It was authoritatively learned today that the United States Defence Department favours inclusion of Greece and Turkey in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

Regarding Turkey the advantages of inclusion are said to be as follows:

1. Turkey and Greece form a kind of geographical whole with Italy, which is a member of NATO.

2. Turkey would be a strong anchor on the Eastern flank of the NATO nations.

3. The Turkish Army is better than some of the NATO nations' armies.

4. Turkish assets of use to NATO from a defensive standpoint would be available automatically if Turkey were a member nation whereas they are not available now.

The case against having Turkey in NATO would be extension of political commitments by the United States and other member nations at a time when NATO strength is just beginning to grow.

It was learned also that the United States does not approve the Turkish proposal for the United States to join the Turkey-Anglo-French alliance of 1939 because the United States approves only collective security arrangements. Moreover, it was said, the Anglo-Franco-Turkish alliance did not work very well in World War II.—United Press.

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Gen. de Lattre's Request

Paris, Mar. 15.

General Jean de Lattre de Tassigny, the French civil and military commander in Indo-China, arrived here by air tonight.

It was understood that he will have talks with the Premier, M. Henri Queuille, the Defence Minister, M. Jules Moch, and other high Government officials.

It was also understood that he would ask for substantial French reinforcements for the campaign against the Viet-minh forces.—Reuter.

LIMIT ON U.S. FORCES REMOVED

Washington, Mar. 15.

The House of Representatives Armed Services Committee today struck from its military manpower Bill a clause which would set a limit of 4,000,000 on the size of the American armed forces.

Mr Carl Vinson (Democrat, Georgia), Chairman of the Committee, said that the vote was 18 to 15 in support of the move, which was to widen conscription and set up universal military training.

The action was taken in a closed session.

The Senate today postponed until tomorrow its debate on the "troops for Europe" issue.

The majority leader, Senator Ernest McFarlane, told the Senate that there had not been enough time to prepare for the debate scheduled for this afternoon.

The debate would involve two resolutions introduced by the Senate Foreign Relations and Armed Services Committees.—Reuter.

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TORIES HECKLE GOVERNMENT ON EGYPTIAN DEAL

London, Mar. 15.

Britain and Egypt have reached agreement in principle on Egypt's balances, it was announced today.

Out of the Egyptian blocked balances, amounting to about £230 million, £150 million will be released over a period of between 10 and 13½ years, Mr Douglas Jay, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, told the House of Commons.

The future of the balance of £80 million would be discussed between the two Governments before the end of this period, he added.

Britain undertook to facilitate the supply of petroleum products to Egypt against the payment in sterling of £110 million a year in each of the 10 years.

Mr Jay said that Britain reaffirmed that she would not try to scale down Egypt's sterling balances unilaterally.

Mr Anthony Eden asked why Britain had not insisted on her rights before making concessions. Why give these facilities when Egypt, for more than a year, had been "treating us very roughly in respect of the Suez Canal Zone."

Mr Jay replied that it was of an agreement in which connot a matter of concessions but concessions had been made by both sides on financial matters.

Mr Winston Churchill asked if it was not the policy of the National Coalition Government that these sterling balances should be offset by claims for the defence of the freedom and safety of Egypt during the war.

Mr Jay replied that that was true, but the British Government had made this claim in 1947. Unfortunately, agreement on that point could not be reached with Egypt.

DEBATE POSSIBLE

Mr Eden asked how Britain could supply oil while her own supplies of oil were being hindered. He asked for an assurance that the agreement would not be regarded as binding until Parliament had had a chance to debate it.

Mr Herbert Morrison, the new Foreign Secretary, accused Mr Churchill of having begun the discussion with "characteristically provocative questions, calculated to make mischief in this respect between us and a foreign country."

But he would look into the point raised. Mr Churchill said that if the Opposition judged that the statement was unsatisfactory, it might have to ask for a debate next Monday or Tuesday to discuss the Egyptian issue.—Reuter.

Morrison's Trip To Paris

London, Mar. 15.

Mr Herbert Morrison, the Foreign Secretary, will leave for Paris tonight to attend a meeting of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on Friday and Saturday. He will travel by the same train as the Italian Foreign Minister, Count Carlo Sforza, who has been in London for the Anglo-Italian talks.

The Italian Premier, Signor Alcide de Gasperi, plans to leave London tomorrow morning. As there will be several absentees among the Foreign Ministers who normally attend the Committee, Mr Morrison will not make personal contact with all his opposite numbers in Western Europe. Among the Foreign Ministers who will not be present are those from Greece, Turkey, the Netherlands and Norway.—Reuter.



Miss Joan Burbidge, formerly of the P.R.O. department of the Foreign Office, leaving England for New Delhi to take up the post of First Secretary at the office of the High Commissioner. Miss Burbidge is the second woman to occupy a high post in the British diplomatic service. (Central Press).

University Students Stage Strike In France

Paris, Mar. 15.

Six thousand students sat down today in the wide Rue Soufflot, in the Latin Quarter, in support of a strike of 100,000 University students throughout France.

Tens of thousands of others rushed to join the demonstration in protest against the Government cut of 235 million francs from students' social security services — originally worth 535 million francs.

The students, whose benefits include reduced-price restaurants and hotels, demanded more instead of less State aid.

The sitting demonstrators chanted slogans as police struggled in the main Boulevard St Michel to keep a line open for traffic through crowds of students rushing to join the sit-down protest.

Traffic chaos soon began to develop in the narrow streets around the Sorbonne University, where 50,000 had quit classes.

A traffic jam one and a half miles long filled the Boulevard St Michel.

The sit-down strikers then repeated the demonstration at the St Michel Bridge. Many chanted "Lapic-resign"—a reference to the Ministers of Education, M. Pierre-Olivier Lapie.

Three van-loads of police called as reinforcements could not get past the demonstrators.

The police, good humoured, slowly but firmly pushed the students back down the streets. The police ran a cordon round the Chamber of Deputies not far away.

MINOR CLASHES

In Strasbourg there were minor clashes between students and police.

In Lyons universities professors stayed away too—in solidarity with their students.

While the students demonstrated non-Communist and Communist transport unions ordered a total strike of Paris motor bus and underground services for tomorrow to press their claims for an all round monthly pay rise of 6,000 francs.—Reuter.

Death Of Art Patron

Santa Barbara, Mar. 15.

Samuel A. Lewisohn, 66-year old art patron and internationally known copper magnate, died last night of a heart attack while recuperating here from a previous heart seizure.

Builder of New York's Lewisohn Stadium, he was known for his collection of impressionistic paintings, considered one of the finest in this country. He was also noted for his work in organising New York's prison system during the term of Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt, and for his extensive writings in the field of art and industry.—United Press.

STALIN PRIZES AWARDED

Moscow, Mar. 15.

Russia today awarded its top science prize of 1950 to three men credited with major advances in the study of cosmic rays.

The Soviet magazine New Times compared the winners of the Stalin Prize with the Nobel Award recipients.

Dr Ralph Bunche, 1950 Nobel Peace Prize winner, was said to be a "Negro renegade playing a shameful role in covering up racial discrimination in the United States."

The Stalin Science Prize, worth 200,000 roubles, was shared by Dmitri Vladimirovich Skobel'th, Nikolai Alexeyevich Dobrotin and Georgi Timogeyevich Zathepin, who were credited with the "discovery and investigation of electro-nuclear streams and nuclear cascade processes in cosmic rays."

Russian scientists have long studied the possibility of harnessing cosmic rays for human usage.

The 200,000-rouble prize for advances in acoustics was split among four persons. Similar prizes went to scientists engaged in agricultural chemistry and compilers of a new atlas published last year.—United Press.

Costello Walks Out

New York, Mar. 15.

Frank Costello, reputed head of a nationwide crime ring, faced threats of arrest and charge of contempt today and walked angrily out of the Senate Crime Committee's hearing rather than face further questioning about his shadowy activities.

Costello stated his new position after a futile plea by his counsel for adjournment on the ground that Costello was ill. His attorney, George Wolf, also contended that the klieg-lighted Federal courtroom, crowded with spectators, reporters and television and news cameras, deprived Costello of his recollection and caused him



These eager youngsters are submitting their enrolment cards to police officers in Hastings because they are anxious to become part of the newly-formed Police Cadet Force. The town hit upon the idea to combat juvenile delinquency and it has worked effectively in helping the boys grow up with sound moral attributes.

Abdullah's Request To Truman

Washington, Mar. 15.

The Jordan Legation here published the text today of King Abdullah's request to President Truman on Mar. 3 to intercede with the French Government over the Moroccan political situation.

King Abdullah described the French policy in Morocco as harsh and said that it might lead to results that are not in the interests of democracy in the present delicate circumstances through which the world is passing.

The French "pressure" on the Sultan, the King described as regrettable and painful, and recalled "the promise made by your late predecessor that those Arab regions will get their full share of independence."—Reuter.

to give seemingly contradictory testimony.

Senator Estes Kefauver (Democrat, Tennessee), chairman, denied the motion on the grounds that the Committee's life would have expired by the time Costello would be willing to continue his testimony. The angry Costello immediately stalked out of the room. Senator Kefauver then said he had no alternative but to ask the Senate for a warrant for his arrest and also to cite him for contempt of Congress.—United Press.

VIETMINH THRUST FOILED

Saigon, Mar. 15.

French-Vietnamese bayonet attacks have thrown back 4,000 to 5,000 Vietminh troops menacing Sadeq, 55 miles southwest of Saigon, French military sources said today.

Entrenched in coconut groves, the Vietminh regulars in four battalions supported by militia and local popular troops had resisted stubbornly for about a week.

They were attacked before they could mount a thrust on Sadeq, which is in the heart of Cochinchina's rich rice-growing area in the Mekong River delta.

When the French Union forces had driven the Vietminh troops into the open rice fields, French amphibious "crabs" and "alligators" swept down their flanks. While "alligators" built Hellcat and Bearcat fighters strafed, and dive-bombed the Vietminh.

The sources said that about 200 Vietminh dead were found on the battlefield though their total casualties were believed to be about 1,000.—Reuter.

Yugoslav MP's Visit British Mines

London, Mar. 15.

The Yugoslav Parliamentary delegation visiting Britain toured coal mines today.—Reuter.

Italian Rearmament Programme

London, Mar. 15.

Italy is to spend 250,000 million lire on defence in the next two years, the Deputy Ambassador, Signor Alberto Rossilonghi, said here tonight in a statement giving details of the Italian rearmament programme.

This sum was apart from the American aid afforded to Italy, he said.

The rearmament programme was outlined by the Italian Prime Minister, Signor Alcide de Gasperi, and the Foreign Minister, Count Carlo Sforza, at the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Deputies' Council earlier today.

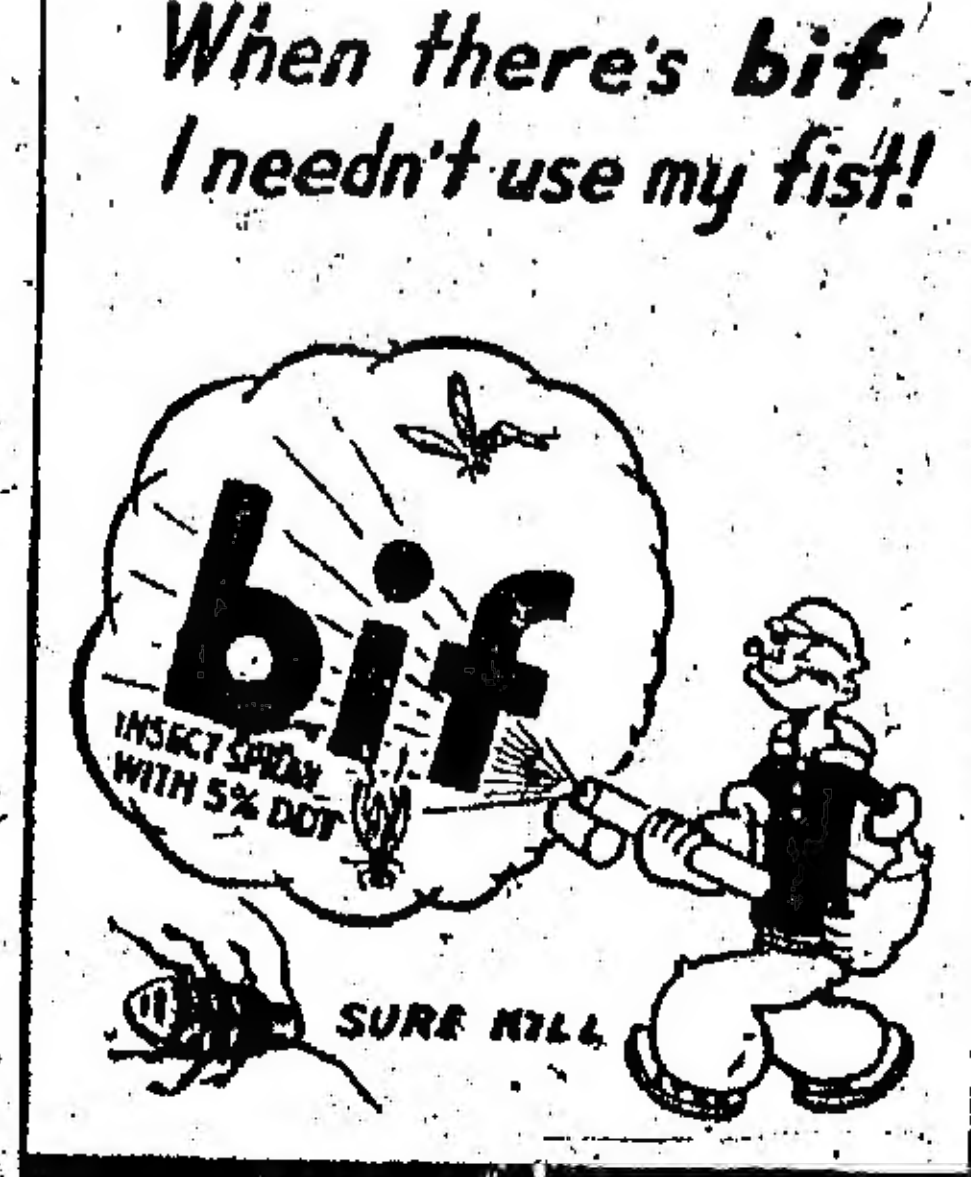
Signor Rossilonghi, who is also chief of the Italian delegation to the Deputies' Council said that the new amount had been made available under extraordinary budget provisions newly passed by the Italian Chamber of Deputies.

The provisions represented an increase of about 50 per cent, he said, in the defence expenditures laid down in the ordinary Italian defence budgets for 1951 to 1952.—Reuter.

NANCY

Can' Take It!

By Ernie Bushmiller



18 MEN IN TWO BOATS WILL ATTRACT OVER 250,000 SPECTATORS

By PETER DITTON

London.

A sporting event which can probably claim to be the best supported in the world will shortly take place in London. Eighteen young men will race through the heart of the capital to the accompaniment of cheers from over 250,000 spectators. Traffic jams? No need to worry about anything like that. The event takes place on the river Thames and the crowds are stretched along the four and a half miles of bank from Putney to Mortlake.

Yes, you are right. It is the Oxford and Cambridge boat race. When the two crews meet on March 24 it will be the 97th encounter between the rival varsities. Cambridge, winners last year, have been successful on 52 occasions and Oxford on 43, with one dead heat.

Since the war, Cambridge have added four times to their list of triumphs and, apart from the first postwar race in 1946, Oxford have been unsuccessful. Last year they were unfortunate to lose their stroke Davidge shortly before the race and the year before that they were beaten by only a quarter of a length after one of the most thrilling races ever.

This year, with Davidge back in the Oxford boat, although not in his former position, and Jennens, his rival of the 1949 race, again available to stroke Cambridge, there are indications of another great struggle. Both crews are now on the Thames practising for the big day but they are not giving much away in their training.

WEIGHT ADVANTAGE

As in previous postwar years, Cambridge have tended to hold back their crew whereas Oxford have pressed on more quickly. The Dark Blues have a slight weight advantage which may prove beneficial especially as the early date of the race provides a possibility of rough conditions.

Incidentally, this year Oxford will be coxed by an American, G. A. Carver of Yale. But that does not mean that there will be the traditional antics which American coxes at Henley have made usual—such as banging the sides of the boat for rhythm. Carver has adopted the English manner: He does not wear eccentric kit or even a jockey cap. He sits motionless in the manner of a first class pilot.

When the crews finally take the water at Putney on March 24, they will be cheered on by the largest sporting crowd to gather in London for any one event during the year. And yet, peculiarly enough, the majority

of spectators will have no personal tie-up with either of the Universities or the towns in which they stand.

Indeed, the explanation of the terrific attraction of the boat race is hard to find. Certainly an important consideration is that it provides free entertainment. The whole of the tow-path from Putney to Mortlake is public property and so the crowds who gather on the banks to get a "grand-stand" view of the race do so without payment.

ON LONDON'S DOORSTEP

Neither must it be forgotten that the race takes place right on London's doorstep and that it is one of the few events which takes itself to the public rather than having the public come to it. And of course another telling factor is the amount of publicity both before and during the race which is afforded by newspapers and the wireless. It is a combination of those things which has helped to make the boat race an institution.

And yet in its earliest days the event was not considered of sufficient importance to make it even an annual affair. The first race was in 1829 when, Oxford, no doubt inspired by the fact that one of their crew was named "Toogood" were the winners. But not until 1856—20 years after the first race was rowed on the tidal waters of the Thames—did the event become an annual affair. Another important date in those far off days was the year 1846 when the first outrigger boats, forerunners of the present day shells, were used.

Which was the most memorable of all boat-race years? There are many different claimants. There was the magnificent race of two years ago when Oxford after leading all the way were beaten, literally on the post, by Cambridge. The margin was so close that even those on a level with the finishing post had to wait until the judges had delivered their verdict.

And then there was the memorable year in 1912 when both boats sunk and the race had to be re-run. But probably

the most famous of all boat-races was the one in 1877 when the crews dead-heated.

Oxford on that occasion had a slight lead when their bow, Cowles, damaged his oar so badly that he could do no more rowing. In spite of the handicap of having to carry a "passenger" and in spite of the fact that they had only seven oars to eight, the remaining members of the crew stuck to their task so gamely that although Cambridge were able to pull up slowly, the finishing line was reached with no discernible margin between the two boats.

—(London Express Service).

SHE BROKE A RECORD



It may be a big one and a beauty at that, but little Pete Widener, Jr., wants no part of this record-breaking kingfish that his mother, Mrs P. A. B. Widener, is carrying in West Palm Beach, Fla. He's heading for parts unknown while Mrs Widener beams proudly at her catch. It tipped the scales at 25 pounds, 5 ounces, which, if allowed by the International Game Fish Association, would constitute a new woman's world record.

New Racing Departure—High Class 'Chasing In May

By JAMES PARK

High-class 'chasing in May is a new racing departure. Last autumn Major J. C. Bulteel experimented with a 'chase in a flat-race programme at Hurst Park. It was such a success that he has decided he might try another experiment a la Auteuil.

In France the horses race throughout the winter months over hurdles and fences. The really big events are saved for the summer. It is during what is known as the big fortnight in June that the Grand Steeplechase de Paris and the Grande Hurdle Race are run.

I hope we shall be challenging for those races this year. The Queen Elizabeth 'Chase, at Hurst Park on Whit Monday, could well act as a preliminary for the Grand Steeplechase.

Every effort is being made to increase the prize money in the big French races. Major Bulteel has the same idea. He knows that with less money available it is the star events that will attract the multitude.

MAGNET FOR ALL

Lavish expenditure is an essential and with £5,000 added, the Queen Elizabeth 'Chase should prove a magnet for all

the best three-mile 'chasers in the country.

It may be a bold experiment on the part of Major Bulteel, but I am sure it will be a great success. Entries have to be made by March 20, and when they are published there will be ample justification for the enterprise.

While the race has been designed in celebration of the Festival of Britain, I am prepared to find it a regular feature in the future. Mixed programmes appeal to the public, particularly when of high class.

I believe Major Bulteel had to employ considerable persuasion before he was granted permission to incorporate a steeple-

chase in the flat-race programme last October. I have been wondering whether he played any part in the new NH rule.

12 ST. LIMIT

It comes into force on March 20 and the Queen Elizabeth 'Chase will be the first race in which the top-weight has been limited to 12st. in a three-mile handicap 'chase.

Previously, the handicapper had to start at 12st. 7lb. In the Hurst Park race no penalty will bring a horse's weight to more than 12st.

This is a new departure in 'chasing and is a point on which there have been many discussions in the past. While I take the view that a top-class 'chaser should be able to carry 12st. 7lb. over three miles at Hurst Park—Coloured School Boy did so twice this season—the smaller range of weights must be in favour of the good-class horses.

It should be noted that the new rule only applies to handicap 'chases of four miles and upwards and in races to which not less than £2000 is guaranteed by the race fund.

The handicapper still has the option of going above the 12st. mark, except when the conditions specifically state that 12st. is the maximum as at Hurst Park.

Messrs Topham will have to think the matter over before deciding on the conditions for next year's Grand National. They still have this year's race as a guide.

If Freebooter should set 12st. 7lb. at defiance there would be no point in reducing the top weight to 12st. So far only four horses have won the "National" with 12st. 7lb., and I have known a number of good horses who failed simply because they had more than 12st.

Fred Rees always maintained that Silvo would have won a "National" if there had been a 12st. maximum. Easter Hero was another who might have done. It will be time enough to think about the Grand National after this year's race has been run.

—(London Express Service)

Cambridge's Full Course Trial

London, Mar. 15.
Cambridge University's boat crew today rowed a full course trial over four and a quarter miles from Putney Bridge to Mortlake in 21 mins. 55 secs.

Yesterday Oxford University recorded 25 mins. 27 secs. but there could be no comparison. Oxford had a head wind and very rough water, whereas Cambridge had smooth water all the way, very little wind and a very slack tide.—Reuter.

THE GAMBOLS



FOR THE BUSINESSMAN

Proposed American Loan To Iran May Be Delayed

Washington, Mar. 15.

The move by Iran to nationalise foreign oil concessions prompted the disclosure today that the United States some time ago suggested that British oil concerns split profits 50-50 with Iran.

Official sources said the British offered instead to double royalties on oil production.

Britain has been paying royalties on each barrel of oil produced in Iran.

The 50-50 split formula suggested to British officials was said to be patterned on agreements which United States oil concerns have with Saudi Arabia and the Latin-American oil-producing countries. The American suggestion, as presented to the British, was said to have been that the profit formula would help present repercussions that might curb oil supplies going to the Western countries.

The State Department declined to comment on the Iranian action. No American oil companies have concessions in Iran. The Standard Oil companies of New York and New Jersey, however, have been planning to build a pipeline from Iran to the Mediterranean.

Authorities said meanwhile that the proposed United States loan to Iran may be delayed indefinitely because Iran is not willing to accept "foreign" money.

SCARED AWAY

The United States Export-Import Bank agreed on Oct. 10 to lend \$25,000,000 to Iran to develop its agriculture, highways and electric power facilities. Iranian and American experts had even agreed on detailed projects, but the Iranian Government has not ratified the agreement and nobody can say when, if ever, Iran might act.

Iranian nationalists were believed to have scared the Iranian Government away from accepting the United States loan. U.S. officials feel many legislators who honestly favour credit do not dare champion such a "tie" to a foreign power at this time. Iran is, however, accepting U.S. aid that does not have to be repaid under the Point Four programme for Iran. American technicians using Point Four money are working in three communities trying to turn them into model villages.

Iran is also accepting free arms from the United States. A shipload of U.S. tanks recently arrived in Iran and officials here say Iran is asking for more weapons.—United Press.

Rubber Futures In Singapore

Singapore, Mar. 15.
Prices of rubber futures closed here today as follows:—
Number 1 rubber, per lb. March 213-214
April 209-210
May 205-206
Number 2 rubber, March 204-205
Number 3 rubber, March 192-193
Number 4 rubber, March 182-183
Spot rubber, unbled 217-218
Black crepe 147-149
No. 1 pale crepe 220-230
—United Press.

London Rubber Futures

London, Mar. 15.
Prices of rubber futures closed here today as follows:—
Number 1 rubber, in cents per lb. 64½-65½
April 64-64½
April/June 63½-64
July/September 57½-58
October/December 53½-54
—United Press.

Cotton Goes Higher

New York, Mar. 15.

Cotton futures finished higher today after an easier start. Nearby July, through mill covering operations, paced the advance.

Mr. Perry Moore, President of the New York Exchange, said no decision had been reached by the Exchange on disposition of nearby March future contracts if they are not completely liquidated within the time limit currently set by the Exchange.

Prices closed today as follows:—
Spot 46.06
July 45.15
December 40.15-40.17
March (1952) 39.92 nominal
May 39.72 nominal
July 39.30 nominal
—United Press.

LONDON TIN MARKET

London, Mar. 15.

The tin market turned very bullish this morning. Turnover was 75 tons, including 5 tons for cash.

Prices closed today at the end of the official morning session as follows:—
Spot tin, buyers 1,420
Spot tin, sellers 1,440
Business done at 1,420
Three-months tin, buyers 1,160
Three-months tin, sellers 1,165
Business done at 1,165-1,155
Settlement 1,420
—United Press.

Bank Of England Statement

London, Mar. 15.

The Bank of England statement for the week ending Mar. 14 reads as follows:—

Notes in circulation 1,300,293,000
Public deposits 24,622,000
Private deposits 370,326,000
Government securities 319,356,000
Other securities 43,155,000
Receipts 51,131,000
Bank ratio 12.3
—United Press.

Cocoon Estimate

Tokyo, Mar. 15.

The Agriculture and Forestry Ministry today estimated cocoon crops for the current year at 94,000,000 kilograms or a 19.1 per cent increase over last year.
—United Press.

WHAT DO THE STARS FORETELL FOR BRITISH FILMS?

By ROY NASH

What do the stars foretell for British films?

One of the more interesting suggestions which came out of the film trade unions' meeting addressed by Sir Laurence Olivier was Michael Denison's idea that stars should be sent round the country to tell the public about the threatened fade-out in British studios.

This week, with only six films before the cameras, I put this jackpot question to some of the stars: "Imagine you were appointed dictator of the British film industry with full powers to sort out the present mess. What would you do?"

Anna Neagle, just back from costume fittings for "Florence Nightingale," said she would concentrate on quality rather than quantity.

"We haven't really enough experienced producers, writers and directors to go round," she explained. "I would aim at making about twenty really wonderful pictures a year."

"I don't suppose they would all turn out as well as I hoped, but some of them would be good and they would build up the market for British pictures both at home and abroad."

Wonsan Again Battered

Korea, Mar. 15.

Following Wednesday's bombardment north of Songjin, the U.S. light cruiser, Manchester, visited battered Wonsan on Thursday morning to lay another rain of heavy steel on Communist communications and troops.

Including in the pocket-sized U.N. Naval task force which has been battering east coastal towns of Red-held Korea are the destroyers Lind, English and Eversten and two frigates.—United Press.

New York Rubber Futures

New York, Mar. 15.

Prices of rubber futures closed here today as follows:—
Spot, 61.00 cents.—United Press.

Copra Offers

New York, Mar. 15.

Dealers were asking \$270 per ton for copra, C.I.F. the Pacific Coast, but no sales were reported. Coconut oil was offered at 21 cents a pound, F.O.B. mills.—United Press.

Similar idea came from Valerie Hobson, home from a holiday trip to Rome and preparing for a return to the screen in the spring.

"As a first step I would find half-a-dozen good producers and give them carte blanche to turn out a picture each," she said.

"They would have absolutely no financial worries and that, I am sure would mean much better films. At the moment most of our producers spend so much time and effort on raising money for the pictures that they are practically exhausted by the time they actually start work in the studio."

Miss Hobson should know. She is married to a producer—Anthony Havelock-Allan.

Margaret Lockwood swung down from a "Peter Pan" wire at the Scala Theatre to suggest a revival of the enthusiasm which existed in British studios during the war.

"Everyone then seemed keen to get on with the job," she said. "With bombs dropping all round us we could turn out a picture like 'Quiet Wedding' in six weeks. Now it would take twice as long and in films time is money."

"To make those war-time pictures we had to work all hours, sometimes finishing at midnight and then starting again at eight next day."

"Of course, there were abuses, and no one would want people to work as long as that now."

"But there should be a compromise. Nowadays one sometimes has to stop work for the day just when everything is ready for the big scene. It may take a couple of hours to work up to the same state of preparedness next morning."

Treatment recommended by Google Withers was "Amputate the faffing" as she walked.

JEST A MINUTE!

By GEOFFREY EVANS



"George wants to know as soon as possible whether he's going to be called up."

towards an operating theatre at Pinewood, where she is playing a surgeon in "White Corridors." What does she mean by "faffing"? "Time-wasting discussions between takes about how a scene should be played or photographed. That should all be worked out before a picture goes on the floor."

Jean Kent, nursing a cold on her farm in Sussex, wanted "more practice and not so much theory."

"I should make sure that everyone in charge of a film really knew his job," she said. "In no other industry are such large sums entrusted to people without the right experience."

"Someone who has proved himself an excellent cameraman will suddenly turn up as a producer or a director."

"If you ran a farm like that, switching your ploughman to be head pigman, without letting him have time to learn the new job first, you would soon go broke."

Phyllis Calvert interrupted the reading of a script which may be a successor to "The Woman With No Name" to tell me that she would set up "production teams" to solve the crisis.

"The idea would be to have producers, directors and stars working together on a series of films," she explained. "They would get to know each other well and so get along more smoothly."

"That's how we turned out some of the biggest successes in British film like 'The Man In Grey,' 'Night By Gaslight,' 'Madonna of the Seven Moons.'"

STANDARD BRIDGE

By M. Harrison-Gray
Dealer: South.
Love all.

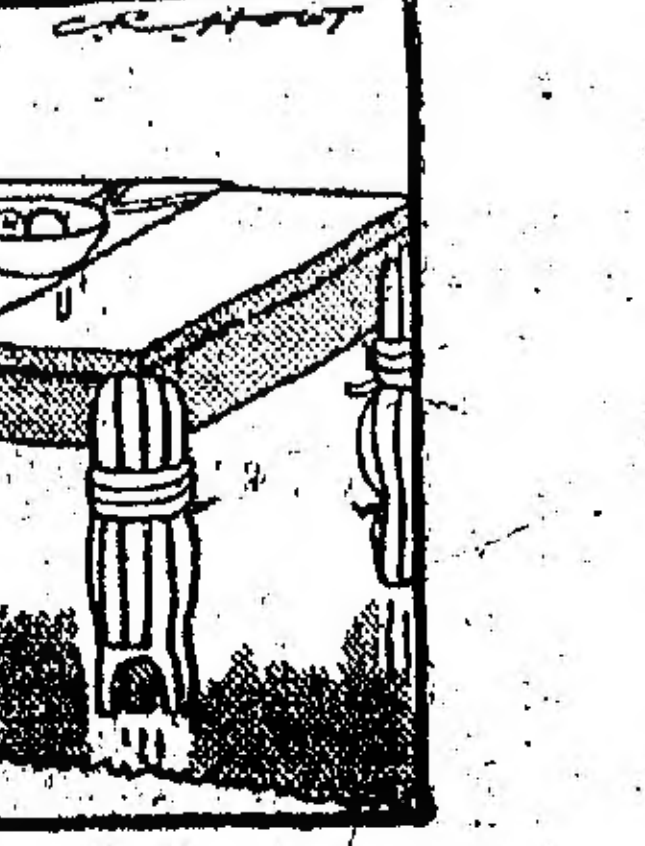
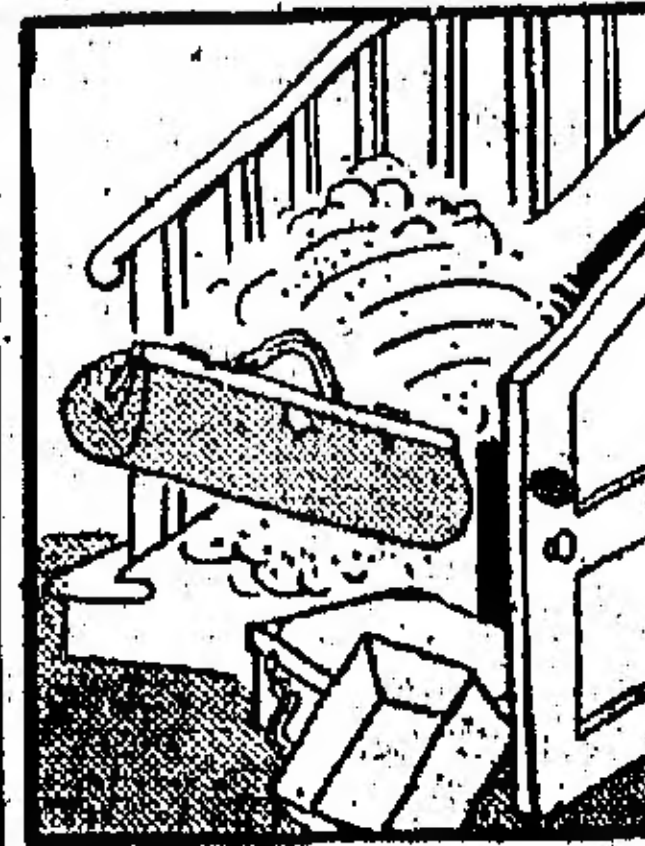
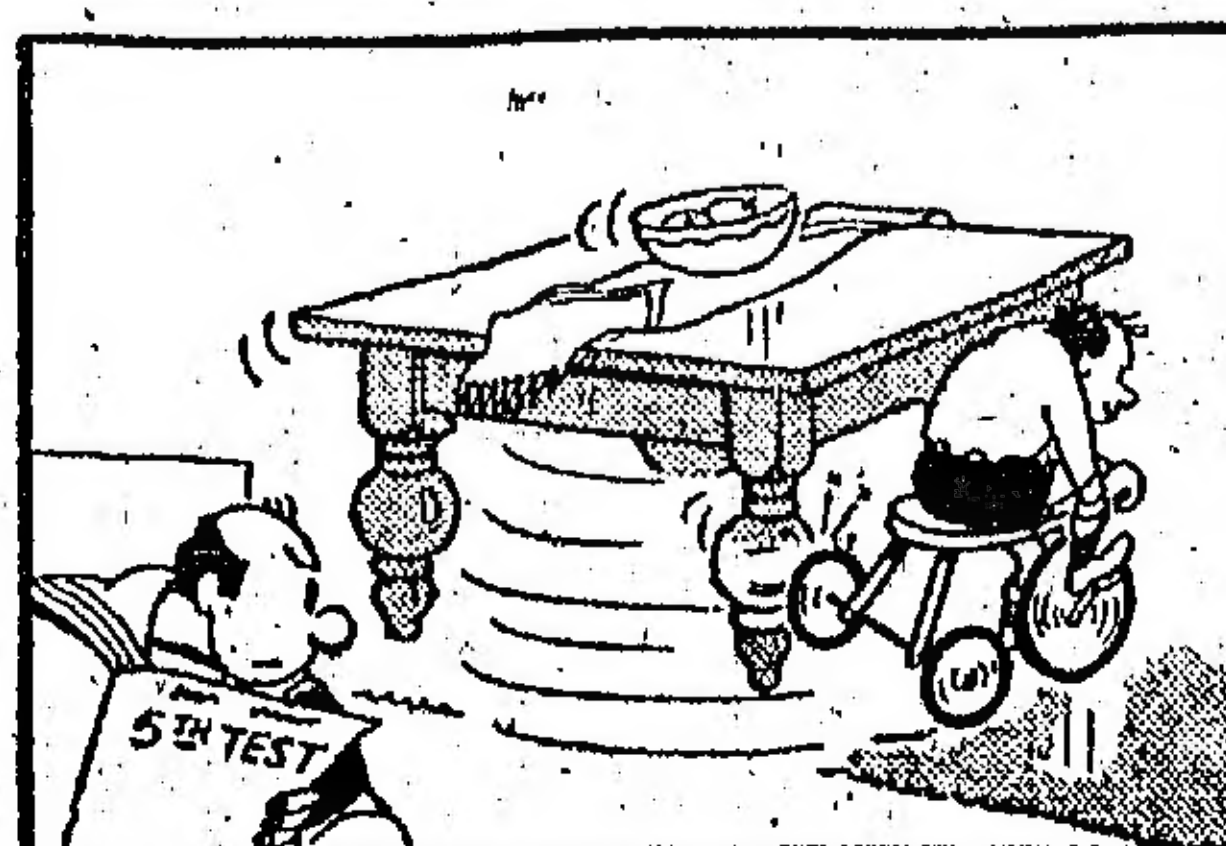
N.
K 10
K 3
7 4
A K J 10 6 5 2
W.
A 8 6 4
Q J 7 4 2
K 10
9 7
S.
Q J 9 7 3
A 8
A J 8 6 2
4

South bid correctly up to a point on this hand from match play, but later became too ambitious. He opened One Spade, and North forced with Three Clubs to avoid being trapped on a later round. South rebid Three Diamonds, North Four Clubs, and South Four Diamonds. North made a preference bid of Four Spades, which South wrongly read as positive support; he cue bid Five Hearts, and North's Five Spades closed the auction.

West led ♠ 4, and South now wished that he had only 10 tricks to make instead of 11. He won in his own hand, and led trumps; West won the second round, and continued Hearts. South decided that his only hope now was to finesse ♠ 10, which resulted in a three-trick defeat. In Room 2 North made Three No-Trumps.

London Express Service.

ABLE SEAMAN



By Holt

WEST OFFERS A COMPROMISE

Big Three Re-Draft First Point Of Proposed Agenda

Gromyko Still Unsatisfied But Reserves Decision

Paris, Mar. 15.

The Western Powers submitted at today's meeting of the "Big Four" Foreign Ministers' deputies a compromise proposal combining reference to the demilitarisation of Germany with a general examination of the causes of tension in Europe.

ATLANTIC CROSSED BY JEEP!

Casablanca, Mar. 15.

An Australian engineer, Ben Carlin, and his wife, after crossing the Atlantic Ocean in their amphibious jeep, said here today that they would continue their round-the-world adventure.

The strange "vessel" caused a sensation when it waddled ashore here yesterday and drove through the crowded streets.

Carlin told Reuters that the crossing has taken nine months, including three months in the Azores. The non-stop voyage, from Halifax, Nova Scotia, to the Azores, took 31 days, and they had little petrol and no drinking water when they arrived.

Leaving the Azores for Madeira at the end of November, they ran into a severe storm. "We had monstrous waves breaking on board," Carlin said. "The jeep was tossed about in all directions like a toy. I thought our last hour had come. The only way out was an opening in the plexiglass roof. We had had to close it to avoid being flooded."

He said it was their third attempt at an Atlantic crossing. Last time they were picked up adrift with a broken propeller by a tanker. They intend to return to the United States by way of London, the Middle East and the Pacific.—Reuters.

U.S. Danger In Inflation

Washington, Mar. 15.

The Economic Stabilisation Administration Mr Eric Johnston, today warned President Truman and Government leaders that unless they give greater support to the fight against inflation, the whole United States defence programme may be jeopardised.

He was addressing the Defence Mobilisation Board.

The Secretary of Defence, Mr George Marshall, was stated to have supported Mr Johnston's warning by telling the Board that soaring prices were increasing the cost of defence, lowering the national morale and jeopardising American mobilisation.

Mr Johnston deplored what he called the unwillingness of any big segment of the American economy—farmers, labour or industry—to accept the sacrifices which the defence programme demanded.—Reuters.

Balkan Air Service

Belgrade, Mar. 15.

Yugoslavia and Greece signed an air agreement today as a prelude to inauguration of an air service between Belgrade and Athens, the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug reported today.—United Press.

Russia has insisted on a reference to German demilitarisation in the agenda for the meeting of the four Foreign Ministers.

The Russian deputy, Mr Andrei Gromyko, criticised the new Western proposal at today's meeting of the deputies, their tenth, but reserved his position.

Dr Philip Jessup (United States) tabled the Western re-draft of the first point of the Western agenda.

This item now reads, "The examination of the causes of the present international tension in Europe and of the means to secure a real and lasting improvement in the relations between the Soviet Union, the United States, Britain and France such as the existing level of armaments, its effects on the question of the demilitarisation of Germany and the means for the control and reduction of armaments, measures to eliminate the fear of aggression, fulfilment of present treaty obligations."

Mr Ernest Davies (Britain) said that the new text represented important concessions to the Soviet point of view and hoped that it would lead to rapid agreement.

GROMYKO SPLITS HAIRS

Mr Gromyko said that the words "demilitarisation of Germany" were in the text, but when one looked at the substance it was turned upside down.

He claimed later that the Soviet proposals offered a solution of the problem whereas the Western draft "drowned" the most important and burning question in a swamp of generalities.

The Western Powers today gave further reaction to the new Soviet proposals tabled yesterday.

Although they welcomed the marked advance which these proposals represented, they still found them unsatisfactory on a number of points, particularly the wording of the first item on the Soviet agenda, calling for fulfilment by the four Powers of the Potsdam Agreement on the demilitarisation of Germany.

The Western Powers repeated their regret that the new Soviet draft for their third item appeared to limit discussion of the reduction of armaments to the four Great Powers and to exclude the question of general reduction.

MORE THAN FOUR

Dr Jessup drew attention to the fact that the United Nations was at present considering this problem because it was a question that affected many more countries than the four represented at the present conference.

He said that the re-draft of the first item of the Soviet agenda, which refers to the Potsdam Agreement, showed no progress so far as the preparation of an objective agenda was concerned.

Dr Jessup drew attention to the announcement by the North Atlantic Council last December on the part Germany might assume in common defence.

German participation would strengthen the defence of Europe without lessening in any way the purely defensive character of the organisation, he said.

All members of the Atlantic Pact were anxious to create a different world situation to the present, one which had necessitated their defensive measures, he said.—Reuters.

MAGIC NOT EXPECTED

Paris, March 15.

Dr Philip Jessup, the American delegate to the Big Four conference, said today that the West should not expect "magic results" from the discussions for a Big Four Foreign Ministers' meeting.

There are substantial difficulties, but they should not be overemphasised, Dr Jessup said at an American Club luncheon.

"The progress of the negotiations is in no sense acceptance of terms of appeasement or defeat. It is in fact the opposite. The way to peace is a long, very hard and very tiresome process, but we should start on it without detours. If we felt that war was inevitable, we could have extended our mobilisation effort. This, however, we rejected."

Referring to the deputies' efforts to draw up an agenda, Dr Jessup said: "In drawing up a deal, we are not indifferent to how we play up our thought. We must make sure that the language is clear to avoid misunderstanding."

WEST'S WISHES

The West was anxious to get a simple and objective list of the issues confronting the world, for discussion by the Foreign Ministers. Such a meeting must be looked at in the perspective of the entire international scene and United States foreign policy which is dedicated to the attainment of world peace. He said this can be done by being strong and by exploring all avenues which may lead to a peaceful settlement of world problems.

The Western deputies agreed that the new Russian concessions on the agenda were not enough. They appeared confident, however, that their solid front would bring more Soviet concessions.—United Press.

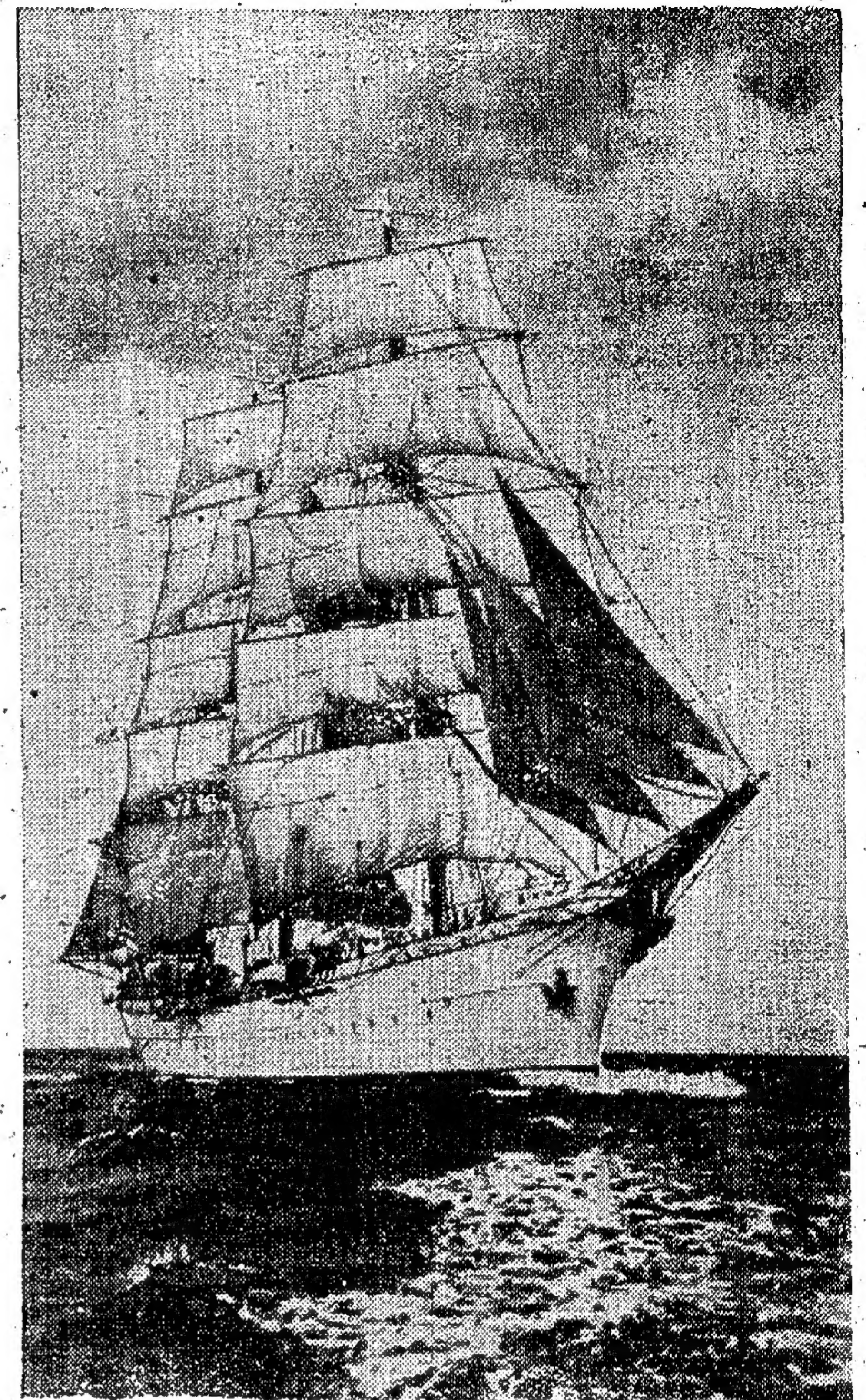
Healing The Breach

Paris, Mar. 15.

The French National Assembly today went a long way towards healing the breach over the electoral system which brought the downfall of the Cabinet of M. René Pleven two weeks ago.

It agreed to a motion in favour of revising the system of proportional representation by a system of majority voting. It also agreed that the future system should have one ballot instead of two.

Further details about the future voting system have yet to be debated and agreed upon before the fate of the Government's Electoral Reform Bill will be definitely known.—Reuters.



The days of sail are not quite over, as this picture of the former German naval vessel Eagle shows. The Eagle, shown leaving port under full sail, is now a training ship for cadets at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

MENZIES' BID TO END FARCE

Canberra, Mar. 15.

Members of the Australian Government, expected tonight that within a few hours the Governor-General would assent to the dissolution of both Houses of Parliament.

The Prime Minister, Mr Robert Menzies, has appealed for the dissolution and the rank and file of both parties are believed to have concurred with him.

During today's sitting the Senate, where Labour has a majority, passed the National Service Bill for a compulsory call-up of youths for defence training.

The Labour Opposition had been instructed by its outside Executive not to oppose the Bill.

Mr Menzies, who saw the Governor-General M. W. J. McKell this morning, will see him again tomorrow to present documented pleas for a dissolution.

In the House of Representatives on Tuesday night Mr Menzies challenged Labour to end the "farce" of legislative deadlock by expediting an appeal to the people.

He invited the Labour-dominated Senate promptly to reject the second Commonwealth Bank Bill (blocked in the Senate), thereby creating the constitutional grounds for a dissolution.

Instead of rejecting the Bill, the Senate yesterday referred the Bill to a Select Committee. Mr Menzies interpreted this as a "failure to pass" and took action for dissolution.—Reuters.

No Hint Of Korea Peace Talks

Lake Success, Mar. 15.

The United Nations Good Offices Committee of three, which has been trying to negotiate with the Chinese Communist Government on Korea, met today.

Officials declined to disclose whether any new contacts had been made with Peking or to comment on the progress of their negotiations.—Reuters.

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